



*The Franks Tract Project seeks to improve conditions for fish species of concern*



*DWR and Reclamation are the lead agencies under CEQA and NEPA respectively*



*Franks Tract Project potential operable gate locations*

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## Franks Tract Project

### Project Description:

The Franks Tract Project is designed to protect fish resources and reduce seawater salinity intrusion into the Delta. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are evaluating installing operable gates to control the flow of water at key locations (Threemile Slough and/or West False River) to limit the entry of certain fish species of concern and higher salinity water into Franks Tract. In addition to improving water quality, the gates would limit migration of fish species of concern into the central and south Delta where their survival rates are reduced. By protecting fish resources, this project also would improve operational reliability of the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) because curtailments in water exports (pumping restrictions) likely would be less frequent.

The project gates would be operated seasonally and during certain hours of the day, depending on fisheries and tidal conditions. Boat passage facilities would be included to allow for passing of watercraft when the gates are in operation. The Franks Tract Project is consistent with ongoing planning efforts for the Delta to help balance competing uses and create a more sustainable system for the future. Preparation of a joint environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the project is underway, and public input is strongly encouraged. For more information, please visit: <http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/ndelta/frankstract/index.cfm>.

### Project Goals:

1. Modify hydrodynamic conditions to protect fish species of concern, particularly delta smelt and longfin smelt.
2. Improve operational flexibility of the SWP and CVP by protecting Delta fish resources; reducing higher salinity water intrusion resulting from normal tidal influences, sea level rise, or catastrophic levee failures; and protecting water quality during extended closures of the Delta Cross Channel.
3. Develop water quality and fish protection measures consistent with long-term planning efforts.

### Schedule and Milestones:

Fall 2008 – Scoping and public outreach to solicit input on project

Spring 2009 – Draft EIR/EIS released for 45-day public comment period

Fall 2009 – Final EIR/EIS released

Fall 2009 – EIR certification and Record of Decision

Winter 2010 – Issuance of regulatory approvals and permits

Summer 2010 – Begin construction